



MontCAS Montana Comprehensive Assessment System September 2005 Newsletter

Spring 2006 MontCAS Testing Windows

Feb. 13 - March 29	Phase 2, CRT-Alternate	Grades 3-8 and 10 Reading and Math
March 6 - March 29	Phase 2, CRT	Grades 3-8 and 10 Reading and Math
March 22 - April 12	Phase 1, NRT and NRT Alternate Assessment Scales	Grades 4, 8, 11 Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science
The required National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests in reading and math in grades 4 and 8 are administered in odd years. The next administration of the required NAEP reading and math in grades 4 and 8 will be in 2007.		

Test Coordinator Information

Thank you for providing contact information for system test coordinators to the Office of Public Instruction. Please continue to send changes to Judy Snow (jsnow@mt.gov or 406-444-3656) as they occur.

The following contact information is needed: name, title, mailing address, shipping address, phone number, and email address.

This information makes it possible for the Office of Public Instruction to directly contact test coordinators with important and timely information.

MontCAS Sessions Offered at Fall Conferences

Information sessions at the MEA-MFT and the MCEL 2005 fall conferences will be presented by the assessment office at the Office of Public Instruction.

MCEL	Helena	Colonial Inn Theater 125	Friday, Oct. 21 10:00 am - 10:50 am	Session Clinic #6 2005 CRT Released Items and iAnalyze; Presented by Ken Stuker
MEA-MFT	Missoula	Sentinel High School, Room 216	Friday, Oct. 21 8:00 am - 8:50 am	Montana Comprehensive Assessment System Update; Presented by Judy Snow
MEA-MFT	Missoula	Sentinel High School, Room 216	Friday, Oct. 21 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm	Accommodations; Presented by a panel of Montana educators, moderated by Judy Snow
MEA-MFT	Missoula	Sentinel High School, Room 216	Friday, Oct. 21 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm	CRT Released Items; Presented by Judy Snow

MontCAS, Phase 1-The Iowa Tests (Norm-Referenced Tests [NRT])

Contact Information

The following individuals are the designated 2005-06 Montana test coordinator contacts for Riverside Publishing Company, the testing contractor for the Iowa Norm Referenced Tests (NRT).

Meredith Durgin, Senior Program Manager,

1-800-767-8420 x6094

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Brenda Granstrom, Coordinator

1-800-767-8420 x6103

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Richard Hills, Assessment Consultant

1-800-323-9540 x7748

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MontCAS, Phase 2--The CRT and CRT-Alternate

Contact Information

The following individuals are the designated 2005-2006 Montana test coordinator contacts for Measured Progress, the testing contractor for the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) and the Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alternate):

Sharon Houle, CRT Program Manager

1-800 431-8901 x2186

shoule@measuredprogress.org

Nancy Hall, CRT Program Assistant

1-888-792-2741

nhall@measuredprogress.org

Susan Moore, CRT-Alternate Program Manager

1-800-337-5219 x2237

SKMoore@measuredprogress.org

Kathy Seaman, CRT-Alternate Program Assistant

1-800-431-8901 x2221

kseaman@measuredprogress.org

New Grades to be Tested in Spring 2006

For the Spring 2006 administration of the CRT and the CRT-Alternate, additional grades will be tested in reading and math. The new grades are 3, 5, 6, and 7.

CRT sample items for the new grades are online

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/Phase2.html#RI05>

Grade three students will mark in their test booklets and not have a separate answer document.

The test format, procedures, administration, and answer document for grades five, six, and seven are the same as for grades four, eight, and ten. Students in these grades will have separate answer documents.

CRT and CRT-Alternate Science Test

A group of Montana educators is revisiting the Montana science content standards in preparation for the development of the science test in grades 4, 8, and 10 scheduled for spring of 2008. Test development for the CRT and CRT-Alternate science tests will begin in the fall of 2006. At that time, the Office of Public Instruction will seek Montana educators to participate in the development process.

New/Improved Demographic Data Entry and Verification for the CRT and CRT-Alternate

Shortly after Measured Progress posted the 2005 CRT and CRT-Alternate student level data on a secure web site, problems were discovered with data that had been submitted during the December - January bar code process. Measured Progress and the Office of Public Instruction worked to correct the problems, investigated their source, and examined solutions. In addition, the Office of Public Instruction convened two focus groups for information, feedback, and suggestions. The combined efforts of Measured Progress, the Office of Public Instruction, and the focus groups of test coordinators and district data personnel resulted in new features for demographic data entry and verification for the Spring 2006 testing including the following:

- Bar code labels will not be printed locally. Demographic data for students who enter after the data entry window will be entered directly on the answer document by district/school personnel.
- Bubbling will not override information submitted for bar codes. Updates or changes will be made on the online data verification system after testing.
- The data entry system has been changed:
 - Within the data entry window, changes can be made through the last day.
 - Immediate feedback on expected fields will be provided. If a school submits data with incorrect or missing codes, the data will be rejected with an explanation. Data will not be accepted until all expected fields are filled with expected data and correct codes.
 - Once data is accepted, Measured Progress will send the school a file of that data in the format to be used by Measured Progress. The file will be time and date stamped each time and can be changed and updated any time throughout the data entry window.
 - Data entry can be completed in two stages for the CRT. For schools wishing to enter grade 10 data after the January semester change, there is an optional later window for grade 10. Schools may enter data for grade 10 during either window.
- Measured Progress will accept data files in Excel or CSV (comma separated variable). The file formats will be available online in November 2005.
- The online data verification system after testing has been streamlined to enable multiple changes at once. More information on that system will be provided prior to data verification.
- CRT-Alternate Registration
 - Students who qualify to take the CRT-Alternate must be registered separately in the CRT-Alternate registration and not in the CRT demographic data entry.

(See next page for timelines)

Detailed information and instructions will be included in coding directions scheduled to arrive in districts in December 2005.

Tentative Data Entry Timeline for Spring 2006 CRT Test Administration

November 2005	File formats for data entry will be posted online.
December 2005	Test Coordinators receive coding directions with detailed data entry instructions.
December 5, 2005 - January 19, 2006	Data entry window for grades 3 - 8 and grade 10 (grade 10 is optional during this window)
January 20, 2006 - February 10, 2006	Optional data entry window for grade 10 only--for districts/schools not entering data for grade 10 during the December 5 - January 19 window.

Tentative Registration Timeline for Spring 2005 CRT -Alternate Test Administration

December 5, 2005 - January 19, 2006	CRT-Alternate Registration for grades 3-8 and grade 10. NOTE: Students in grade 10 who qualify for the CRT-Alternate must be registered during this window.
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Contact Information
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